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| 10/560,917 | 05/17/2006 | Yasutaka Kodama | F-8908 | 6024 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| MATTIA, SCOTT A | |

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/560,917 | KODAMA, YASUTAKA | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | SCOTT A. MATTIA | 3689 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *1* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 December 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### Status of Claims

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/15/2010 has been entered.
2. Claim 1 is currently pending and has been examined.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Claim 1, as amended, recites: "wherein the network camera comprises a plurality of cameras". This limitation renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether Applicant's invention comprises "a camera" or "a plurality of cameras". The language specifying that "**the** network camera" (singular) comprises a "plurality of cameras" (plural) creates confusion. Correction is required.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham **v.** John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

    1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
    2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
    3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
    4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda (US 5,859,778) in view of Mottur (US 20020018124 A1). Kuroda relates to a system for remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the central control apparatus via communication means. Mottur relates generally to delivering content over a computer network, and more particularly to providing content related to live action feeds controlled over the network by network users.

9. **CLAIM 1 (Currently Amended)** – Kuroda discloses a coin laundry management system comprising:

    - a coin laundry device ("a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18)
    - a control device that controls the operation of the coin laundry device based on the coin laundry device data received from various sensors ("operations of a plurality of laundry machines such as clothes-washers and dryers set in the laundrettes are controlled by a microcomputer that takes in signals from rotational speed sensors, thermistors, micro

switches, and the like respectively installed in several parts of each machine", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 30-34; "microcomputer controls the operations of the laundry machine according to the signals received from the sensors", col. 1, lines 40-41)

- a data controller that sends the data from the control device ("microcomputer … transmits the data to a data controller (hereinafter called as the DTC)", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 40-44)
- a coin laundry store where the coin laundry device, the data controller and the network camera are provided ("In a laundrette, for example, wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 16-18; i.e., a self-service laundry facility, or laundromat)
- a central control device ("Each DTC [data controller] is connected to the central control apparatus using a personal computer disposed in a management company via a public telephone line", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 46-48; I.e., the telephone line represents a line of communication connecting the data controller (DTC) and central control apparatus.) located at a site other than the coin laundry store ("a remote management system that makes it possible to change data stored in a memory in a control device of a machine which stores related data to the operation of the machine from a remote central control apparatus of a management company, without dispatching personnel to the site of the machine", Kuroda, col. 2, lines 36-41; i.e., "remote" system implies located somewhere other than the store); and
- ... the coin laundry device being controlled remotely based on coin laundry device data ("a remote management system that makes it possible to change data stored in a memory

in a control device of a machine which stores related data to the operation of the machine from a remote central control apparatus of a management company, without dispatching personnel to the site of the machine", Kuroda, col. 2, lines 36-41; "central control apparatus gives a screen display", Kuroda, col. 2, lines 1-2; "remotely managing a machine by means of a central control apparatus such as a personal computer or the like by connecting the machine controlled by a control device, e.g., a micro-computer with the central control apparatus via communication means", Kuroda, col. 1, lines 8-13; and "wherein a plurality of clothes-washers and a plurality of dryers installed are used by the payment with coins or prepaid cards, when a management system that carries out centralized monitoring of the laundry machine to check the presence of failures, presence of troubles, and the sales amount and other information thereby to control the machine", col. 1, lines 16-22)

Kuroda does not explicitly disclose:

- a network camera that converts still images to moving image data and sends it to the central controller via a line of communication
- wherein the network camera comprises a plurality of cameras for obtaining moving image data from inside and outside the store, each one camera having controllable functions for zoom, pan and tilt ()
- wherein the central control device and the network camera are constantly connected to an internet, the central control device comprising means for individually and remotely controlling directional orientation and zoom of said each one camera to facilitate near real time interactive monitoring of the coin laundry store via the internet;

- wherein the obtained moving image data from inside and outside the store is continually updated via the internet to a website, *...and the moving image data of the coin laundry* store that are sent to the central control device via the internet, wherein the system facilitates real-time control of a condition in and around the coin laundry store in which an administrator, in real time, viewing the website can review data captured in real time, and implement either one or both of directional orientation and zoom change to one or more of the plurality of cameras,

Mottur discloses:

- a network camera that converts still images to moving image data and sends it to the central controller via a line of communication ("camera can provide video (and audio) data for display or presentation to the network user. The audio/video data can be provided in real-time using uncompressed analog or digital streaming modes/formats to provide continuous feedback to the network user", Mottur, par. 6; "The disclosed methods and systems include methods and systems for providing real-time continuous streaming **video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network", Mottur, par. 20; "connection between the network user and the camera(s) can facilitate communications via fiber optic, infrared, satellite, Radio Frequency (RF), microwave, cable, or Internet Protocol (IP), or other communications modes and/or protocols", Mottur, par. 7)
- wherein the network camera comprises a plurality of cameras for obtaining moving image data from inside and outside the store, each one camera having controllable functions for zoom, pan and tilt ("methods and systems allow the network users to

interactively control the **cameras** using continuous control methods and systems, wherein continuous camera control can be understood herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The network users can control camera **pan, tilt, zoom**, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad", Mottur, par. 20)

- wherein the central control device and the network camera are constantly connected to an internet ("continuous streaming **video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network", Mottur, par. 20; "audio/video data can be provided in real-time using uncompressed analog or digital streaming modes/formats to provide continuous feedback to the network user", Mottur, par. 6), the central control device comprising means for individually and remotely controlling directional orientation and zoom of said each one camera to facilitate near real time interactive monitoring of the coin laundry store via the internet ("methods and systems provide control of at least one camera to at least one network user. The camera(s) and network users can be in communication with each other through a network including the **internet** or a public or private network", Mottur, par. 6; "The network users can utilize a microprocessor-controlled device that includes or displays an interface, including a graphical user interface (GUI), database or scripting interface, menu driven interface, etc., that can be collectively referred to herein as an interface. The interface can provide data from which camera control commands can be generated and transferred to the camera", Mottur, par. 6; "interface can have a control area that can have a cursor within the control area.

Movement of the cursor within the control area can be translated to camera controls. For one embodiment, the control area can be calibrated such that continuous commands can be provided to the camera based on the cursor position while the cursor is active", Mottur, par. 8; "systems allow the network users to interactively control the **cameras** using continuous control methods and systems, wherein continuous camera control can be understood herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The network users can control camera **pan, tilt, zoom**, focus, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad", Mottur, par. 20; );

- wherein the obtained moving image data from inside and outside the store is continually updated via the internet to a website, *...and the moving image data of the coin laundry* store that are sent to the central control device via the internet ("continuous streaming **video** and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location, to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network", Mottur, par. 20; "Several internet websites exist that allow users to obtain live action programming that can be streamed throughout the internet to internet users. These websites can be integrated with one or more cameras, otherwise known as "webcams," that can be located at locations to capture a particular field of view", Mottur, par. 5), wherein the system facilitates real-time control of a condition in and around the coin laundry store in which an administrator, in real time, viewing the website can review data captured in real time, and implement either one or both of directional orientation and zoom change to one or more of the plurality of cameras ("real-time continuous streaming video and audio data from at least one remote camera system and/or location,

to network users on a network such as the internet an another public or private network", Mottur, par. 20; "systems allow the network users to interactively control the cameras using continuous control methods and systems, wherein continuous camera control can be understood herein to include control commands provided at fixed intervals. The network users can control camera **pan, tilt, zoom, focus**, and camera presets using, in one embodiment, a user interface in the form of a control or touch pad", Mottur, par. 20)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the laundry management system disclosed by Kuroda with the internet/networked video camera system, as disclosed by Mottur. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to modify the system of Kuroda in this way, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination, each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately (i.e., (a) remotely control laundry machinery, and (b) remotely control network cameras), and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable (i.e., adding remote video cameras to a laundromat yields predictable results of video monitoring/surveillance of the laundry facility).

Although Fujimoto does not directly pertain to the field of coin laundry devices, a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole (MPEP 2141.01). The prior art of record provides common essential elements, including networked devices connected to a central system, even though the prior art does not pertain to coin

laundry, but rather game-related devices. Furthermore, the element disclosed by Fujimoto solves the pertinent problem (i.e., remote device/facility monitoring).

**Response to Arguments**

10. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this office action.

**Conclusion**

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

12. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT A. MATTIA whose telephone number is (571)270-7787. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM..

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAN MOONEYHAM can be reached on (571)272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. A. M./

Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Dennis Ruhl/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3689